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U.S. Ready to Charge Israeli In Spy Operation, Aide Says

By PHILIP SHENON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, May 30 — An Israeli military officer is expected to be charged in the next several days with participating in an espionage operation in the United States, a Reagan Administration official said today.

According to the official, the Israeli had ties to Jonathan Jay Pollard, a civilian analyst for the United States Navy who has been accused of selling classified military information to Israel.

The Administration official, who spoke on the condition that he not be named, said prosecutors were close to a plea bargain with Mr. Pollard that would require him to cooperate in an investigation that has strained ties between the United States and Israel.

'Obviously a Big Case'

Neither the rank nor the whereabouts of the Israeli officer could be determined, and it was unclear if there would be other arrests in the case.

"It's obviously a big case," the Administration official said. "They've been trying to wrap this thing up for weeks."

Mr. Pollard's lawyer and spokesmen for the Israeli Embassy did not return telephone calls today. Mr. Pollard is in custody.

The Administration had no comment today on a report in The Los Angeles Times that Mr. Pollard was part of an Israeli intelligence operation in the United States that was much larger than previously believed.

Mr. Pollard, a civilian counterterrorism analyst, was arrested in November along with his wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, after they drove into the Israeli Embassy here, apparently seeking asylum.

The case created rifts between the American and Israeli Governments, and officials said the United States reduced the amount of intelligence information shared with Jerusalem for a time.

Apology From Peres

In December, Prime Minister Shimon Peres of Israel apologized to the United States and portrayed the spy operation as independent of Israel's main intelligence agencies. After long negotiations, American prosecutors were permitted to travel to Israel as part of their investigation.

In the past, Israeli Government officials have acknowledged that two Israeli diplomats working in the United States served as Mr. Pollard's contacts. The diplomats were recalled to Israel shortly after the arrest of the Pollards.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said that Mr. Pollard admitted that he provided Israel with hundreds of pages of classified military documents, including one stack of mostly top-secret papers that was more than 15 inches high. After his arrest, law-enforcement officials said a search of Mr. Pollard's apartment had turned up about 80 secret documents in the master bedroom.

Pollard Reported Cooperating

The bureau said the documents included several involving the military capabilities of foreign governments.

News reports in March said that Mr. Pollard had begun cooperating with the authorities. His wife has been released on bond.

According to the bureau, Mr. Pollard has admitted that he received about $2,500 a month from an Israeli contact in exchange for American documents, including some classified higher than top secret. He acknowledged espionage activities going back to 1984, the bureau said.

There have been frequent reports of tension between the Justice Department and the State Department over the case. According to officials, Federal prosecutors have actively sought to go forward with the case, while diplomats at the State Department feared that proseuction could harm the relationship between the United States and Israel.

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